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THE OPENING GAME

By the time this is in print, as the long-shot magazine writers say, we will all be sitting on benches at the grandstand chewing peanuts, demanding the attention of the boy with the red pop, and commenting on the appearance and work of the try-out squads.

In a general way, it may be said that 1916 is being dedicated this afternoon. Officially and academically, it began near four months ago; but it has not amounted to much, and couldn't, until the baseball season had opened.

Let us hope that baseball may "come back." It is going to worry a lot of us to learn all the lingo of golf, and, anyhow, we have the feeling that it's more fun to take our sports vicariously.

We understand quite well that this isn't the best sort of sport for us, but, recognizing that it's very demoralizing and unfortunate, we'll go on taking ours that way, if it's all the same to the gentlemen who think we should saw wood or lose gutta percha balls or make ourselves ridiculous trying to work off surplus flesh on the tennis court.

Meanwhile, "Play Ball!"

BARGAIN HUNTING UNDER ANALYSIS

Too long has mere man scorned the female bargain hunter. Too long has he smiled indulgently or gently rallied the woman who indulges in the wild scramble or the foot-wearing pilgrimage after a "marked-down-from" to some odd figured price just under the currency unit.

These same men have been proud of what they termed their "wanderlust." Proud have they been to recount to admiring youngsters how they ran away to sea, or took to braving on the railroad, or chased away to some Pan-American opportunity for getting rich quick.

Along comes Prof. Max Baif, bluff and to the point as his name, and pronounces that bargain hunting is simply another form of wanderlust. Both, he says, are due to high blood pressure of youth (not the sort of hardening arteries), and to each is due about the same modicum of pride, if you want to get cheery over your blood pressure at all.

The good doctor found this out by using a sphygmometer, and to the "sphy" as the laboratory men may call it for short, bargain hunting and shipping as a stoker, suffrage stumping and adventuring for hidden treasure, all look just the same.

Of course, there may be some things about human beings you can't size up by using instruments that end in "meter," and sometimes the laboratory devices make stranger bed fellows than politics ever achieved. Still, Dr. Baif's conclusions sound more human than instrumental, and it is time for man to come off his call-of-the-wild perch and allow women their due for the wild thrills, the joyous adventuring, the big gamble, and the delicious zest of hunting down bargains in their natural lairs.

PRESIDENT WILSON'S LAST WORD TO BERLIN

President's Wilson's last word to Berlin is vibrant with the virile spirit of this nation.

He arraigns Germany's submarine conduct with a logic which is unanswerable, and with a force which could not well be surpassed. He minces no words about either the deliberate illegality of the submarines or the broken pledges of the government which has inspired and directed them. He demands an immediate abandonment of the present policy and performance, and declares that nothing else can prevent a parting between the German and American governments.

It is true that there appears to be ground for dispute as to the full meaning of one particular and most important sentence. In his address to Congress he seemed to say that because submarine warfare against merchant ships of a belligerent was inseparable from insufferable wrong to neutrals, it must be discarded altogether. This is his old position of February, 1915, to which he refers specifically in his present note.

Yet in the note itself the literal text does not demand the immediate abandonment of such submarine warfare. It demands immediate abandonment of present METHODS. Nevertheless, an official close to the President is understood to insist that President Wilson's ultimatum is against not merely the inhuman methods of submarine warfare as conducted by the German admiralty,

but any and all submarine warfare upon merchant vessels.

Albeit there is this conflict of opinion and statements within the President's own official family and even reflected in his own address to Congress, we feel that until he himself amends the text of his note or explains it differently from its plain wording, we are bound to read it precisely as it runs, and this we do.

Taking it to mean exactly what it says—that if the present submarine methods are abandoned we can continue our friendly relations with Germany, otherwise we cannot and will not—we acclaim Mr. Wilson's last word to the Berlin foreign office the clearest, finest, and strongest state paper he has yet written and one of the best that ever issued from the White House.

If there is the confusion between meaning and phrasing indicated in his address to Congress and affirmed by the official just mentioned, a large issue arises not only between this neutral government and the German belligerents, but between this neutral government and all belligerency. For we cannot deny the right of Germany to the proper use of her submarines as commerce destroyers. To this none of them will ever assent.

But, as we have said, it is to be assumed, until the President himself gives reason for a contrary interpretation, that his note, as clear as crystal everywhere else, means just what it says, not one whit more, not one whit less.

As such, if he will only stick to it, if he will only back it up in whatever manner and to whatever degree may become necessary, the American people in turn will back him up to the last hour of his Administration.

WHAT WILL GERMANY DO?

In some ways the appendix which the State Department sent to Germany along with its formal note concerning the submarine crisis, is more illuminating than the main note. This appendix deals with the evidence which the Washington Government has accumulated bearing on the torpedoing of the Sussex.

When the question is asked, "What will Germany do?" it becomes necessary to examine the German record from the creation of the "war zone." Germany has seemingly been willing at all times to indulge the most extreme methods, despite the protests of the United States. When the Lusitania murder plot was baldly advertised by Germany in American newspapers it could easily have been made justification for sending Count von Bernstorff home. The repeated assurances of good intentions were just as repeatedly violated. The reiterated pledges that neutral and noncombatant lives would be protected were persistently proved to mean nothing.

Excuses and explanations were whittled down to their most unsatisfactory minimum when the Sussex case came along. A gauzy theory was presented by Germany, in seeking to dodge all responsibility for that affair—a theory that, in view of the evidence, can only be regarded as a deliberate misrepresentation of what Berlin knew to be the facts. It was like the accused murderer refusing to take the stand in his own defense; it dodged the issue. In the case of an accused person that refusal leaves a bad impression. In Germany's Sussex case the invention of a silly excuse for denying the obvious had an equally bad effect.

Just how strong was the case, in point of fact, to prove that a German submarine torpedoed the Sussex, we now know, because a most painstaking compilation and authentication of it has been effected, and the results are contained in the supplemental note to Germany. There can be no doubt of the facts. There never could have been any real doubt of them in the minds of the Germans who contrived the childlike evasion that Washington was expected to accept.

What could Germany have meant, then, when, in view of the almost certainty of exposure, she still assumed to mislead the United States? It would seem that she had reached the point where she was willing to throw to the winds all semblance of respect for the United States; to treat us as an international joke; to "josh" us about the most grave affair in international relations; to assume that under no provocation would we permit our self-respect to direct our actions.

The alternative, as it must have appeared to Berlin, could hardly be less than the very thing that President Wilson has now threatened, a severance of diplomatic relations. Germany seemingly was willing to take the chance of that alternative being enforced. She must have been willing to risk that much, for she could not possibly have supposed that her cheap and unconvincing disclaimer would be unchallenged or unrefuted.

Anybody who, with sincere intent to learn the truth, will read this supplemental statement, dealing with the Sussex incident, must be convinced that Germany knew her disclaimer would be proved disingenuous and false. It is not within the

possibilities of honorable intercourse between nations to go on maintaining relations if the word of one nation cannot be accepted by another. Germany knew that; yet she did not issue the disclaimer in the Sussex case, and did not pretend to think we would take it seriously, or in our pusillanimity pretend to take it seriously.

Washington has declined to take it seriously, has mustered the proofs and stood on them; has insisted that this country cannot continue diplomatic relations with Germany if there is more of this kind of conduct.

What will Germany do? Germany foresees the possibility of this situation arising. She could not have failed to foresee it. She was willing to take the chance; which means only that she was willing to have diplomatic relations broken off by chance Washington should get stiff-necked and earnest on such a point.

Washington has done just that, and, therefore, it cannot but be considered that there is grave danger that the alternative will become effective; that diplomatic intercourse will be broken. The consequences of such a development need not be outlined. It has almost invariably resulted in war. The one significant exception is in the present anomalous relations between Germany and Italy, which have ceased diplomatic intercourse, and yet are not nominally at war. In truth, however, they are practically at war, and the formal declaration would not materially change conditions. Either side would quickly enough issue the declaration if there were prospect of advantageing itself by so doing.

SOME STRANGE POLITICAL BEDFELLOWSHIPS

Sir Edward Carson, leader of the Ulstermen, who two years ago were getting ready to declare civil war against the British government, is now leader of the parliamentary fight for universal military service. On yesterday, in view of the fact that his propaganda had brought the British government to the verge of a cabinet crisis, he graciously yielded assent that his universal service motion might be postponed till Tuesday, but only with the express assurance that the premier would at that time meet the issue squarely.

It is a strange and curiously British situation. A little while before the present war began Sir Edward, arch enemy of home rule and the Asquith government, was accounted by many to be almost a traitor. His course would have brought him to trial for treason in most countries, even among those that are regarded as decidedly liberal. Berlin looked upon him as one of its most efficacious allies. It confidently assumed that the "Ulster war" was going to be Britain's hands so that she would be unable to participate in the continental war, even if she were not too decadent to fight, anyhow!

How strangely have the best laid plans of kaisers and cabinets gone awry! Germany couldn't understand that the Britishers and the Irish were perfectly able to have a bally row among themselves, but that it was a strictly family affair, in which the outsider might interfere only at his peril. It is not beyond reason to opine that there would likely have been no war if Berlin had been able to understand just what was going on in the minds of Carson and his associates, or how they were going to act when the real crisis came.

Today Sir Edward stands as the most insistent man in the whole empire on absolute devotion to the national cause. He believes it necessary and a duty to call every man to the colors—to insist on universal service. He is willing to overturn a government in which his own party is now strongly represented, if necessary, in order to gain his end. The man whom Asquith suspected of something like treason, is now prodigal Asquith into a greater zeal for the national cause!

END OF THE FAKE AUCTION IN SIGHT

Gratitude of every business man, and especially of the merchants of Washington, is due Congress for the prospect of the early passage of the Johnson "fake auction" bill.

The Retail Merchants' Association undertook not only a service to its members, but a far greater service to buyers, when it sponsored this legislation, which will protect visitors from the perpetrations of these concerns. The city suffers a loss every time a stranger comes here and finds that what he may suppose to be an "auction" is a day-in-and-day-out emporium for the deliberate misrepresentation of goods.

Especially do these "fake auction" concerns become a nuisance at times like the inauguration, the G. A. R. convention, and upon lesser occasions when great crowds gather here. They give to these visitors a bad impression of the city. They lend to some of the city's most beautiful streets the appearance of a cheap midway thoroughfare during county fair week. They constitute a reflection on the city, they destroy confidence in legitimate barter and trade, and they fleece strangers who deserve the city's hospitality and protection.

EXPERTS WILL SHOOT ORANGE TOMORROW

Former Militia Rifle Masters Will Try Skill at Winthrop. Clerks Qualify.

Rifle Range Program For Next Two Days

Friday.
Military Service Legion.
State Department.
Navy Department.
Agricultural Department.
Postoffice Department.
National Press Club.
Washington Fencers Club.
Woodward Building Club.
Saturday.
High School Cadets—all targets.

Tomorrow promises to be one of the most interesting days of the season at the Winthrop rifle range as it will be the first appearance on the range of a number of the crack shots of national reputation. The members of the Military Service Legion of the District are and are now members of a civilian rifle club.

Captain Florian Ferree, for a long time considered one of the best shots in the country, will have charge of the range. The experts have not been shooting for several years and are members of the newly formed organization of ex-members of the national guard. Many of them represented Washington in national and interstate rifle competitions season after season. They will try to show off their old experience on the range tomorrow and will offer their services to the members of the several civilian clubs who shoot with them as instructors.

Press Team To Shoot.

The members of the National Press Club Rifle Club will go to the range tomorrow as well as the clubs of four Government departments, the Washington Fencers Club, and the Woodward Building Rifle Club.

Of the eighty-three men who were on the range yesterday representing four Government departments, twelve qualified over the marksmen's course, and the others have qualified their intention of keeping up the work until they qualify.

The high score yesterday was made by E. C. Strachan, of the War Department, with a total of 172. A. W. Smith, of the Treasury Department, was one point behind him, and J. H. Langan, of the Department of the Interior, was two points behind with 169. H. L. Hart, of the War Department, was third, with 167.

The others who qualified yesterday were W. R. Sultoff, J. R. Major, J. W. T. Jones, and H. B. Harlan, of the War Department; H. G. J. N. Langan, and J. H. Windsor, of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing; E. B. Smith, of the Department of the Interior; and Robert Howard, of the Winthrop Building Club.

To Get Free Trip.

Announcement is made by the National Rifle Association that the members of the range yesterday and were unable to land because of the weather will be carried to the range free on the next day assigned to their club.

The pursuer of the DeBarry has a list of names of the men who were on the range yesterday and were unable to land because of the weather will be carried to the range free on the next day assigned to their club.

Commerce Department Changes In Personnel

Secretary Redfield today announced the following changes in bureau of the Department of Commerce:

Harry Carl Wunder, mechanician in the Bureau of Standards, increased to \$1,200 a year; Elizabeth D. Clark, clerk at \$800 in the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, transferred to the Department of Commerce; J. H. Johnston and James L. Gardner, increased to \$900 and \$750 a year, respectively, in the Bureau of Fisheries.

Book Reviews

JAPAN'S REAL ATTITUDE TOWARD AMERICA. Edited by Toyokichi Iwano. Ph. D. G. P. Putnam's Sons, publishers.

A compilation of ten short articles in the series of stories by George Brunsdon, which appeared in New York and Philadelphia newspapers. Mr. Iwano asserts that Rea distorted facts and made false allegations and "base insinuations" in presenting the Japanese-American question.

Among the articles in this book is a letter to a Philadelphia paper, written by Dr. Sidney L. Gulick, purporting to show that the cry of "Nippon under Allen" does not emanate from Japan.

NAN OF MUSIC MOUNTAIN. By Frank H. Spearman. New York: Chas. Scribner's Sons, Inc.

The West of rugged mountains and bitter enemies is the locale of Frank H. Spearman's latest book, a story of feuds as deadly as those of the Kentucky mountains.

Officials Here Fail To Find Justice in Trainmen's Demands

Administrative and Legislative Authorities Point Out That Men Who Are Asking Increase Get More Than Any Other Class of Railroad Employees.

By JUDSON C. WELLS.

Administrative and legislative authorities in Washington are taking a distinctly different view of the present effort of railway trainmen to compel an advancement in their wages, from any that has been taken on former occasions.

It is very apparent that the case for the employees seeking higher wages is viewed with less amiability than ordinarily. In legislative circles there has recently been serious talk of legislation to prohibit strikes by employees of interstate carriers, and to provide a procedure for compulsory arbitration.

The impression has gained a good deal of ground, that certain favored classes of employees have for a long time been systematically aggregating to themselves most of the increases in wages.

HIGHEST PAID CLASS OF MEN.

On behalf of the engineers and trainmen who are making the demand for a large wage increase, it is urged that the higher cost of living justifies their demand. Yet these men, the engineers, firemen, conductors and brakemen, the highest paid classes of railroad labor. The question being asked why an engineer getting an average wage in 1913 of \$5.20, should require an increase, while trackmen, who were getting \$3.58 per day, should be left out?

Again, the average wage of conductors in 1913 is shown by the statistics of the Interstate Commerce Commission to have been \$4.39 per day. At the same time, telegraph operators and dispatchers were getting an average wage of \$2.52 per day.

If the increased cost of living for the \$4.39 conductor necessitates a large increase in his compensation, where does the \$2.52 dispatcher come in? No demand is being urged on behalf of the telegraph operators and dispatchers, and some of the railroads have lately been intimating vigorously that if a big additional burden must be laid on their backs, they would like to give the benefit to the poorer paid classes of employees.

The truth of the whole business is that, as a whole, the railroad employees of the country are not very highly paid as compared to other people. A few classes of railroad men are paid very high wages. The most fortunate of all these classes are the engineers, firemen, conductors and brakemen.

Rate Rising Rapidly.

Not only are these four classes paid much more liberally than other classes of railroad men, but their rates of wages have been rising more rapidly than that of any other classes. In 1914 the Interstate Commerce Commission's report showed the number of railroad employees for the entire country to be 1,718,286. Out of this number there were 64,000 engineers, 64,000 firemen, 201,000 conductors, and 136,000 other trainmen; a total of 315,000, or just about one-sixth of the entire force.

At the same time, the number of trackmen, exclusive of foremen, was 337,461. That is the number of common laborers in the railroad industry, the entire roll of engineers, firemen, conductors and brakemen. Yet this smaller group of men was receiving an average wage of \$15.88 per day, while engineers were getting \$5.20, firemen were getting \$4.13, conductors were getting \$4.39. These figures are the commission's averages for the entire country.

Condition Bettered.

Largely because they are the best organized classes of railroad workers, these men have been successful in their demands for better wages. These four classes have succeeded in bettering their condition rapidly and regularly, at the expense of the other classes, which are not so fully organized.

The trainmen, whenever they insist on a wage increase, have, on their side, the commission's report that if they don't get what they ask, they can walk out and tie up the whole railroad system. No other class of employees has this advantage, because no other is so instantly indispensable.

How effectively the four favored classes have used this power is shown by the statistics. In the ten years from 1907 to 1912, inclusive, the salaries of general officers increased an average of 10 per cent.

In that same ten-year period the salaries of engineers increased 24 per cent. During those same ten years the wages of general office clerks increased 15 per cent, while the wages of firemen increased 25 per cent.

During those same ten years the wages of telegraph operators and dispatchers increased 11 per cent, while those of trainmen other than conductors increased 36 per cent.

Impressive Statement.

Here is an impressive statement of fact about railroad wages that ought not to escape attention. There were a total of 37,573 crossing tenders, and switch tenders, crossing tenders, and switch tenders. These were receiving in 1912 an average of \$1.70 per day, which was actually 6 cents a day less than they had been receiving ten years earlier.

At that time there were 4,201 conductors with whom the statistics deal. The conductors, therefore, were only a little more numerous than the tenders and switchmen, yet, while the tenders and switchmen were paid from \$1.70 to \$1.70, the least fortunate class of tenders and switchmen had to stand a reduction from \$1.70 to \$1.70.

If the cost of living has been steadily increasing, as the statistics show, to justify an increase of 27 per cent in their wages, it seems difficult to explain why that same cost of living should have fallen sufficiently to warrant a decrease of 3 per cent in the wages of switch tenders, crossing tenders, and watchmen.

Take the single classification of general office clerks. There were 87,098 of these according to the official statistics. A much larger number than of either engineers, firemen, or conductors. These general office clerks were paid an average of \$2.71 per day in 1912, an increase of only 15 per cent in the ten-year period.

General office clerks, without exception, have fallen sufficiently to live in cities, where the cost of living is high.

T. R. ONLY MAN WHO CAN PUT BUSINESS BACK ON SAFE BASIS

So Says Charles Sumner Bird, Candidate for Delegate-at-Large in Massachusetts.

ASSERTS HE IS NOT ALONE

Declares Commercial Men of the Country Are Coming to Realize They Must Have Colonel.

By HENRY L. STODDARD.

BOSTON, April 17.—"I'm no politician—I'm just a plain business man. As a business man I would instantly forget two-thirds of my business career if I knew that Theodore Roosevelt is to be in the White House the next four years. I'm not alone among business men, either, in that feeling. Even those who have had a hatred for him in the past—the heads of big factories and of small shops—admit that he is the one man that can put business where it belongs on a safe, definite basis. Thank God, they are waking up at last. Now let the politicians wake up, too, and give the country a man."

Thus declares Charles Sumner Bird, Progressive leader in Massachusetts, candidate for governor in 1913, and now a candidate for delegate-at-large to the Republican national convention.

McCall Offered To Retire.

There is no political prophet here who will stake his reputation on the assertion that Bird will be defeated. Governor McCall offered to retire in his favor, and Bird declined. Colonel Roosevelt has publicly and privately insisted that his name should not be used by Bird in the sense that he is a Presidential candidate. Yet Bird has not budged.

Every influence that could be exerted to make Bird accept a unanimous election as delegate, or to compromise in any way, has failed to impress him in the slightest. It's a fight to the finish with Bird. He proposes to have the Republican voters decide it; not the Republican bosses.

"I consulted no interest, no trust, no boss when I determined to announce myself as a candidate for delegate-at-large," he said today. "I sought no credentials from anywhere save the State of Massachusetts. Under the law, as a citizen, I am free to enter the primaries, and that is exactly what I am doing—putting it up to the people. A primary without a contest is a waste of time. The kind of primary the party bosses like, but if I can help it they are not going to be permitted to stifle the real sentiments of the Republican voters of this State as to their choice for President. I know the man the people want; so do the bosses. And I am not afraid of putting that man's name before the people. That is the one reason I am in this fight."

Must Be Roosevelt.

"Yes, if the Republicans are going to try to please the people," replied Mr. Bird. "It is five to one against any other candidate except Hughes, and it's odds against Hughes. Wilson is not going to be an easy man to defeat. The people are disgusted with the military kind of primary the party bosses like, but if I can help it they are not going to be permitted to stifle the real sentiments of the Republican voters of this State as to their choice for President. I know the man the people want; so do the bosses. And I am not afraid of putting that man's name before the people. That is the one reason I am in this fight."

COMING EVENTS ON CAPITAL'S PROGRAM

Today's Amusements—Schedule for Tomorrow.

Today.
Lecture, "Under Sentence," Rev. Leslie L. Rogers, at Fifth Street Christian Church, 8 p. m.
Address, "Local Forms of Aquatic Insects," Dr. H. W. Shufeldt, before Aquarian Society of Washington, Thomson School, 8 p. m.

Annual congress, National Society, Daughters of the American Revolution, Memorial Continental Hall, 10 a. m.
Meeting, war relief committee of the Needlework Guild, chapel of the Church of the Epiphany, 10 a. m.

Lecture, "The Reconstruction of China," Thomas F. Millard, National Press Club, 8 p. m.
Meeting, civic section of the Twentieth Century Club of All Souls' Church, in the church, 8 p. m.

Meeting, Democratic Women of America, New Kibitz, 2 p. m.
Home Club chorus rehearsal, Home Club, 7:45 to 9:15 p. m.

Masonic—Hiram, No. 10; La Fayette, No. 19; Adoniram, No. 2; Royal, No. 3; Four Masters; Evangelical Chapter, Knights Rose Croix, Scottish Rite.
Old Fellows—Columbia, No. 10; Salem, No. 22; Covenant, No. 12; Friendship, No. 8; Tekeah, Masonic Hall, Anacostia.

Knights of Pythias—Franklin, No. 2; Past Chiefs' Association, monthly meeting, 8 p. m.
Knights of Columbus—Spaulding Club, post-poned.

Marcbases—Georgetown, No. 4; Potomac Business Bank hall, District, No. 8; Four and a-half and G streets southwest.
Eagles—"Get Together" meeting; initiation, National Union-National, Potomac Hall, 8 p. m.

Amusements.
New National—"The Birth of a Nation," 2:15 and 8:15 p. m.
Deaf—"Following the Flag in Mexico," 1:30, 2:30, 7:30, and 9 p. m.

Keith's-Vaudeville, 2:15 and 8:15 p. m.
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Tomorrow.

Photograph concert, Home Club, 8 p. m.
Lecture, "Investigations on the Mineral Resources of the United States," Dr. J. E. Forbes, under auspices of the National Academy of Sciences, New National Convention Hall, 8 p. m.

Good Friday services, Church of Mount St. Sepulchre, Brookland, 8 p. m.
Exhibit of work of Trade Sewing School, students of Neighborhood House, Italian, afternoon and evening.

Memorial service, National Society, Daughters of the American Revolution, Memorial Continental Hall, 8 p. m.
Masonic—Lebanon, No. 7; school of instruction, Royal Arch; Columbia, No. 2; Knights of Pythias—Franklin, No. 2; Knights of Pythias—Syracuse, No. 10; Improved Order of Red Men—Minotia Tribe, No. 14.
Socialist Party—Local Northeast.

G. W. U. Meeting Will Form Students' Council

For the purpose of perfecting the organization of a students' council, a mass meeting of students of all nine departments of George Washington University will be held tonight in the main lecture hall of the law school in the New Masonic Temple.

Prof. Everett Fraser, dean of the law school and chairman of the faculty committee on school activities, will preside. Prof. Leslie Cleveland McNeur, secretary of the committee, will be one of the principal speakers. David Baer, graduate manager of the football team, also will speak.